

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Shigetaka SAKAKIBARA et al.

Serial No.: 10/585,674

Date Filed: July 7, 2006

For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, PRINTER DRIVER, IMAGING APPARATUS,  
IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGING SYSTEM

30 Rockéefeller Center, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10112  
(212) 278-0400

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In order to ensure compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97(a)-(d), Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicants' knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this application.

Alternatively, Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). The references listed in the annexed Form PTO-1449 were cited in a November 25, 2008 search report in connection with a counterpart European patent application.

A copy of the November 25, 2008 European search report is also enclosed herewith. Each reference listed in the Form PTO-1449 annexed to this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Another reference (JP2002327138) cited in the European search report was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 7, 2006 with this application and therefore is not being listed on the Form PTO-1449 annexed hereto.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

According to the August 5, 2003 OG Notice published by the Patent and Trademark Office, the Patent Office has waived the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international application that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

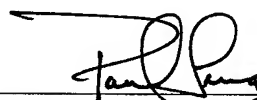
Accordingly, copies are submitted herewith for only references listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 that are not a U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837  
Attorney for Applicants  
Cooper & Dunham LLP  
(212) 278-0400

Date: December ~~27~~<sup>24</sup>, 2008